

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-23 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 10 have been amended and Claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hayes et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,380,903).

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhou (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,170).

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 13, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Zeijl et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,802,458).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 10 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 2 and 11, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 10, as well as Claims 4, 5, 13, 15, and 16,

respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,170).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 are believed to be in condition for allowance in light of the remarks contained above. Because Claims 3 and 12 respectively depend from independent Claims 1 and 10, dependent Claims 3 and 12 should similarly be in a condition for allowance for at least the same reasons. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of Claims 6-9 and 18-23. Applicant notes that Claims 6-9 and 18-23 are indicated as allowable at pg. 4 of the Office Action mailed December 2, 2004 and that Claims 6-9 and 18-32 are indicated as allowable on the Office Action Summary sheet. Applicant assumes that the Office Action Summary sheet should state the allowable Claims as 6-9 and 18-23 rather than Claims 6-9 and 18-32.

The Examiner states that claims 2, 11, and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 10 to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 2 and 11, respectively. Therefore, independent Claims

1 and 10, as well as Claims 3-5, 12-13, and 15-17, respectively dependent therefrom, should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 1, 2005

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